

Atty. Docket No. JP919990227US1
(590.049)

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated December 28, 2005, pending Claims 1-8, 10-15, and 17-18 were rejected and the rejection made final. Applicants submitted an Amendment After Final on February 28, 2006, and an Advisory Action subsequently issued in which Applicants were advised the amendments set forth in the Amendment After Final would not be entered. In response Applicants have filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination and have amended independent Claims 1, 8, and 15. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On April 19, 2006, Applicant's counsel and the conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner in which the present application and the Nakayama et al. reference were discussed. No agreement, however, was reached with respect to the claims of the present application.

Claims 1-5, 8, 13, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama et al., U.S. Patent 5,872,924 (Nakayama) in view of Noveck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,832,363 (Noveck). Claims 6 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Itakura, U.S. Patent 6,639,608. Claims 7, 10-11, 12, 17, and 18 stand rejected

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under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakayama in view of Noveck and in further view of Simonoff, U.S. Patent 6,463,460.

The Applicant's previous remarks submitted in the Amendment dated October 5, 2005, continue to be appropriate and are not repeated here in the interests of brevity. It should be noted, however, that the independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 have now been rewritten to recite "and displaying an owner identifier, wherein objects associated with the obtained owner identifier may be discriminated from objects associated with other owner identifiers." (Claim 1; similar language appears in the other independent claims). Independent Claims 17 and 18 contain similar language. ("displaying upon the selection of said particular owner by a system user all of said particular owner's collaboration work objects created by said particular owner during the collaboration work session in a manner such that the selected owner's collaboration work objects are discriminated from said other collaboration work objects")

Discrimination of objects in accordance with the present invention is discussed at various places in the specification. As noted, the technologies at the time of the present invention did not permit the "case of selecting objects belonging to a certain owner, among the drawn objects, for editing operation including changing, modification, deletion, and so on." (Page 4, lines 10-13) Thus, the present invention provides that in discriminating objects, "attention can be paid only to objects drawn by a certain owner on a collaboration work area." (Page 10, lines 5-6) One way this is accomplished is where "the objects of the selected owner may be indicated by a solid line, and the objects of the other owners may be indicated in gray to be unseen (graying out)." (Page 10, lines 7-9)

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The outstanding Office Action only cursorily mentions such discrimination, asserting in summary that Nakayama, Col. 7, line 27-42, teaches “displaying an owner identifier on the in a manner that the obtained owner identifier can be discriminated from owner identifiers of other objects.” (December 28, 2005 *Office Action* at 5) A review of the cited portion, however, shows that at best all that is taught is attaching an indicator to each object so that “the owner of the object can be readily identified.” In contrast to the present invention, there is no teaching of discriminating objects such that the objects of a selected owner are discriminated from the objects of other owners.

Although the outstanding *Office Action* glosses over discrimination in accordance with the present invention, the Office does assert “the disclosed system of Nakayama shows substantial features of the claimed invention, if fails to expressly show” the user management table comprising user names.” The Office continues, “[n]evertheless, Nakayama does teach the user management table comprising user identification.” The Office thus concludes, “it would have been obvious ... to show Nakayama teaching the object management table comprising graying-out flags.” (December 28, 2005 *Office Action* at 6) Applicants respectfully submit this emphasis on whether it was obvious for Nakayama to teach the object management table comprising graying-out flags is misplaced and is of no moment in the patentability of the present invention.

Furthermore, neither Noveck, Itakura, nor Simonoff overcome the deficiencies of Nakayama. As such, the combination of these references with Nakayama does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. A 35 USC 103(a) rejection requires that the combined cited references provide both the motivation to combine the references and an expectation

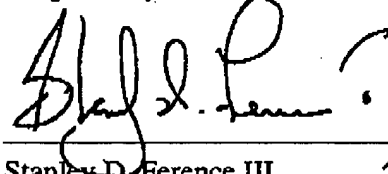
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of success. Not only is there no motivation to combine the references, no expectation of success, but actually combining the references would not produce the claimed invention. Thus, the claimed invention is patentable over the combined references and the state of the art.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 17 and 18 fully distinguish over the applied art and are thus allowable. By virtue of dependence from these claims, it is thus also submitted that Claims 2-7 and 10-14 are also allowable at this juncture.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application, including Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17, and 18, is presently in condition for allowance. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any further issues in this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below prior to the issuance of a further Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,



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